



LESSONS FROM A WOODWIND PLAYER  
Finding your family melody  
FAMILY FOCUS | B1



FLORIDA SCHOOL SHOOTING  
Former student suspected of killing 17  
NATION | A8



Kevin Burke's military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, an Army Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Ribbon, among others.

A local hero

Army pilot who called Grass Valley home dies in helicopter crash

By Matthew Pera  
Staff Writer

Family and friends this month will celebrate the life of Kevin Burke, a 28-year-old Grass Valley man and U.S. Army pilot who died Jan. 20 when the helicopter he was driving crashed at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin.

officer who enlisted for active duty in 2005, was well-respected by colleagues and friends, according to family members. "He was smart, charming, handsome and charismatic," said Burke's mother, Colleen Leatherland Burke. "Everybody loved him."

The helicopter pilot was

HERO, A6



Kevin Burke attended military schools including Warrant Officer Candidate School, Aviation Warrant Officer Basic Course and AH-64E Qualification Course, among others.

Clerk-recorder/registrar of voters race gets 3rd candidate

By Alan Riquelmy  
Staff Writer

Elise Strickler, a management analyst with Nevada County, on Wednesday announced her candidacy for clerk-recorder/registrar of voters.



for both sides of that office, which includes the maintenance of records and elections. "I want to serve my

of 13 years in customer service.

As an elections employee she discovered a passion

community in a way that can benefit others," Strickler said.

Strickler is the third candidate who intends to run for the office. Incumbent Greg Diaz's campaign in December filed a document indicating he'd run again. Mary Anne Davis, event manager/nonprofit manager with The Union newspaper, announced Tuesday she'd run.

Strickler began her career with the county in Diaz's office, where she learned about voter registration, building ballots, candidate filing, staff management and media outreach. She then moved to the CEO's office. In her current role she researches and analyzes county programs, special projects

REGISTRAR, A6

NID: Low rating on dam funding application 'well-deserved'

By Matthew Pera  
Staff Writer

The Nevada Irrigation District won't appeal a low rating given to its application in pursuit of state funds for the proposed Centennial Dam, the district's board of directors decided Wednesday.

Board members agreed with the California Water Commission staff's initial assessment of the project, which predicted the reservoir wasn't qualified for any state money based on the requirements of the grant NID applied for.

The Water Storage Investment Program, which is overseen by the Water Commission, funds portions of water storage projects based on the public benefits they provide. Those projects are required to benefit the delta or its ecosystems in order to qualify for program money.

NID's Investment Program application touted the reservoir's benefits to

The act of accepting state money brings with it conditions that are likely to be unacceptable to the district."

— Director Nick Wilcox

the local ecosystem and public recreation, and requested nearly \$12 million from the investment program — a small fraction of the \$342 million it estimates the dam will cost.

But the Water Commission's initial review of NID's application, published early this month, said Centennial wasn't likely to qualify for any program funding.

All 11 agencies that have projects in the running for Investment Program money were predicted to receive less money than they requested, according to those initial reviews.

NID, A6

A second look

Former members of Nevada County cannabis panel give feedback

By Alan Riquelmy  
Staff Writer

A massive crowd packed the chambers of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, waiting to see what shape a new marijuana ordinance would take.

Those who'd hoped to have a commercial recreational grow likely were disappointed, as were those who wanted to see a complete outdoor ban in quasi-residential areas. Supervisors on Tuesday told county staff to write a draft ordinance allowing commercial medical grows. Additionally, they instructed staff to allow up to six plants outdoors for personal use in more rural zones.

Jonathan Collier — on

the Nevada County Cannabis Alliance's executive board and a member of the now-disbanded community advisory group, the latter of which created recommendations for the ordinance — said supervisors had to start somewhere.

"A lot of people are going to be unhappy," Collier said. "At the same time, we're not going to get everything we want."

Collier said his organization prioritizes commercial grows, because they typically create the most impacts. He'd have liked recreational — or adult-use — grows allowed, because they'd provide a larger marketplace for cultivators. He fears some

POT, A6

WEATHER  
H: 55°  
L: 36°  
Sunny  
See full forecast, Page A7

OBITUARIES  
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Howard Reed  
Ron Sibley

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San Francisco school says 10 sick students took marijuana  
SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco school officials say 10 middle school students who were sickened after "ingesting a substance" are believed to have consumed marijuana.  
The San Francisco Unified School District said in a statement Wednesday that the students' symptoms were "consistent with marijuana intoxication" A container labeled 'medical cannabis' was confiscated.  
Emergency vehicles rushed to James Lick Middle School Tuesday and TV footage showed children being wheeled away on stretchers. Officials said the students had ingested an unknown substance that caused adverse reactions.  
— Associated Press

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